

## **Pontiac Lake Recreation Area**

### **Park Significance**

- Centrally located between Flint and Detroit in Oakland County, Pontiac Lake Recreation Area provides year round park activities to the most densely populated urban area in the state.
- With 3800 acres of mostly undeveloped land, PLRA is home to a wide variety of wildlife and provides a great opportunity for wildlife viewing.
- The pristine headwaters of the Huron River flow thru the PLRA.
- PLRA has one of the largest beaches on an inland lake in the state.
- PLRA provides immediate access to a large hunting opportunity.
- With a boat launch and two fishing piers which are handicap accessible, PLRA provides the opportunity for fishing in a lake well known for bass tournaments as well as walleye and large pike fishing.
- PLRA has over 25 miles of equestrian, mountain biking and hiking trails.
- PLRA has an archery and gun shooting range allowing target practicing and sight in for hunting season.

### **PLRA Events**

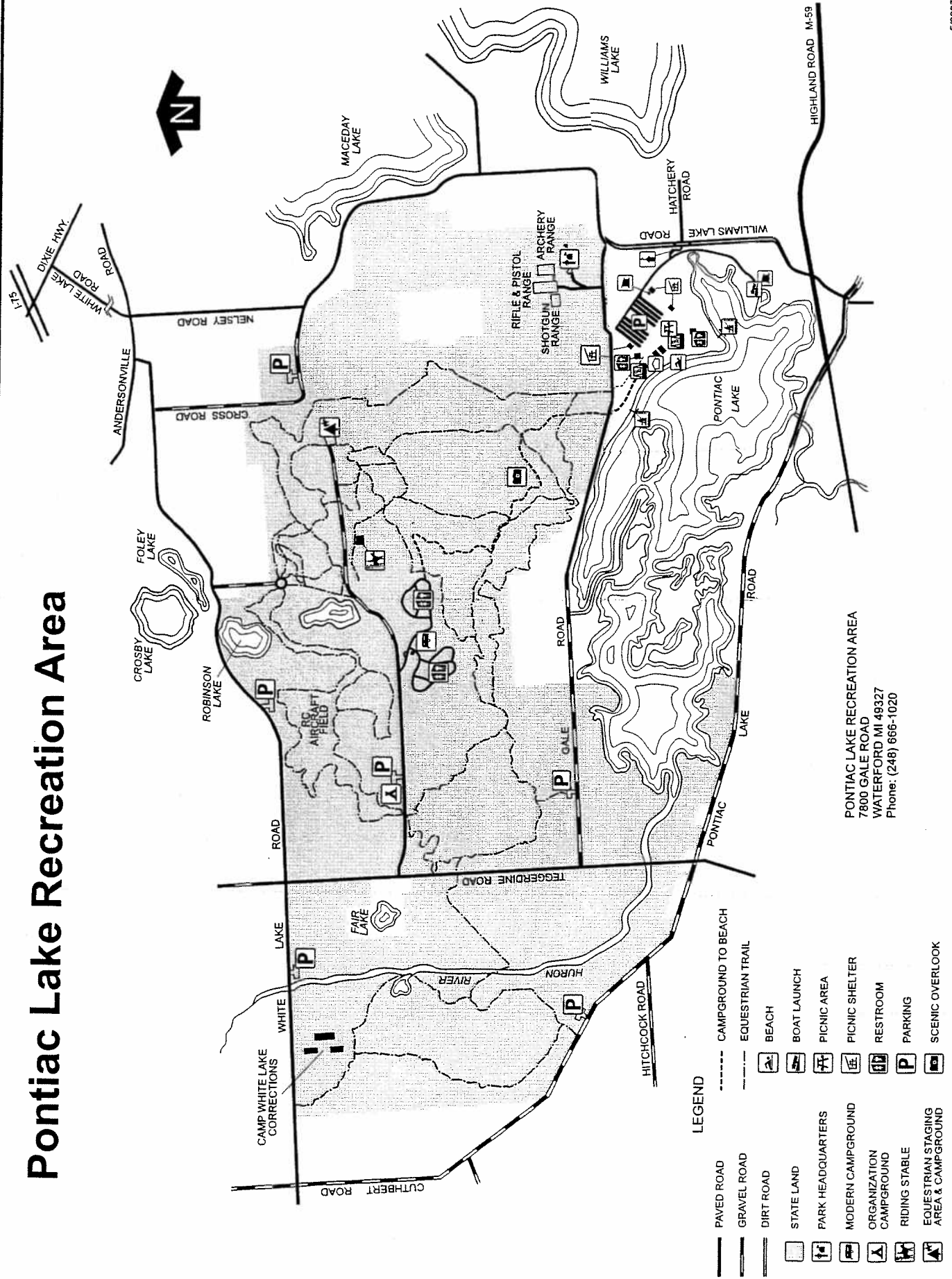
- The park has hosted over 100 events over the last three years
- Events range from hydroplane racing, harvest weekend, dog shows, model airplane shows, equestrian riding events, water ski shows, geocaching, orienteering race events, mountain bike racing, archery range shooting and adaptive sports events.
- PLRA has attracted large crowds to these shows. For example, 400 girl and boy scouts took part in learning how to fly a model airplane.
- The Quake on the Lake Event drew a crowd of 16,000 visitors.
- The equestrian cowboy supper camp out/cookout is sold out every year and the campground fills for the two harvest weekends every fall.
- Attendances to the park for the last three years were 2006-643,000/ 2007-600,000/ 2008-602,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Groeneveld

Friends of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area

# Pontiac Lake Recreation Area



### **STATE PARK LICENCE FEE FUNDING**

THE MICHIGAN STATE PARKS USED TO BE THE LEADER OF THE NATION'S PARK SYSTEMS.  
IT ACHIEVED THIS RANKING BY GIVING THE PUBLIC WHAT THEY WANTED.

- THE PUBLIC EXPECTS SECURITY WITH PARK RANGERS PATROLING THE AREA.
- THE PUBLIC EXPECTS WELL MAINTAINED AREAS
- THE PUBLIC EXPECTS CLEAN TOILET BUILDINGS, SHOWERS AND BEACH AREAS.

THE STATE PARKS OFFER OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CLOSE TO HOME.

- THEY OFFER ACCESS TO MICHIGAN'S UNIQUE NATURAL RESOURCES.
- THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE OUTDOOR CHALLENGES.

THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN RECREATION AREAS OFFER A LOW COST RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO THE RESIDENTS IN THE INNER CITIES.

- ALLOWS ACCESS TO LAKES, FISHING AREAS, PICNIC AREAS, CAMPGROUNDS, HORSEBACK RIDING, AND HIKING TRAILS WITHOUT RESIDENT RESTRICTIONS.
- 'THE DAY IN THE PARK' PROGRAM WAS SUCCESSFUL.
- WHEN THE ECONOMY IS DOWN OR GAS PRICES GO UP, PARK USE GOES UP.

THE STATE PARKS ARE A MAJOR PART OF MICHIGAN'S TOP INDUSTRY – TOURISM.

- THEY ATTRACT PEOPLE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND STATES.
- THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT ASSET TO LOCAL ECONOMIES, EMPLOYMENT AND THEY OFFER JOB EXPERIENCE.

PUBLIC USE OF THE PARKS HAS AN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

- 'CONTROLLED DESTRUCTION' IS MAINTAINED BY THE PARK RULES.
- IT TAKES STAFFING, FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT TO LIMIT THIS IMPACT.

IN THIS DAY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS, THE FORESTED STATE PARKS NOT ONLY OFFER SOME RELIEF WITH THE CARBON CONCERNS, BUT ALSO IN OFFERING AN INEXPENSIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO ITS CITIZENS BY THIS LEGISLATION, AS A GIFT TO THEM NOW AS WELL AS A GIFT FOR THEIR FUTURE.

FRED TYSZKA

FRIENDS OF PONTIAC LAKE RECREATION AREA.